

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

The meeting of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street on May 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mayor Mattox called the meeting to order and presided.
2. Rev. Mitchell Etherridge, Motley Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

Mayor Mattox recognized Mr. Stan Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors, Altavista District Representative.

Council members

present:

Mayor Michael Mattox
Mrs. Beverley Dalton
Mr. Charles Edwards
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Mr. Bill Ferguson
Mr. Timothy George

Council members

absent:

Mr. Jay Higginbotham

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager
Mr. Dan Witt, Assistant Town Manager
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director
Deputy Chief Ken Walsh, Police Department
Mr. John Eller, Town Attorney
Mr. John Tomlin, Public Works Director
Mr. Steve Bond, Wastewater Treatment Director
Mrs. Megan Lucas, Economic Dev. Director
Mrs. Mary Hall, Administration

3. Mayor Mattox asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes

4. Public Comment

Mayor Mattox asked if anyone not on the agenda would like to comment.

Mrs. Nancy Miller, 816 Park Street, addressed Council. She stated her prayer group from Valley View Church of God met and wants Council to know they are praying for the town and for things to be done in Christ's name. She expressed their concern with the Chief of Police. She said they loved him very much. He had visited their group speaking to them about safety and how to be safe in your home and other matters. She stated the group appreciates Chief Hamilton so much.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mrs. Miller for her comments.

Mr. Mark Moss, Chief of the Altavista EMS, resident of 5348 Shula Drive, Hurt, Virginia, addressed Council. He stated the Altavista EMS has had a tremendous relationship with the Police Department where the Police Chief has been a wonderful, professional individual to work with. He stated he was very sorry to see Chief

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

Hamilton leave because he was an instrumental person; very much involved in Public Safety and did a tremendous job in supporting the EMS and the Fire Department. Mr. Moss stated he was not sure what was going on with the situation but hopes Town Council is not looking at making any detrimental changes to the Police Department that would affect Public Safety in the community because like the citizens the EMS relies on the Police Officers to help them do their jobs. He referred to situations in which Firefighters and EMS workers are killed in the line of duty by people they are called to serve and they rely on the Police Department for protection. He asked Council to take this into consideration before making any detrimental changes to the department. He asked Council to look within the department for talent in replacing the Chief. He noted there are dedicated professional police officers within the Town and who have served on the force for years. He noted Chief Hamilton and his leadership would be missed.

Mayor Mattox thanked the Altavista EMS for the work they do in serving the community. He stated the Town of Altavista and Town Council appreciate everything the Altavista Police Department does.

Mr. Robert Hubbard, 1308 4th Street, addressed Council stating he has lived in the Town approximately five years and feels the Police Department is very professional and does a great job. He noted since he has been in Town, he has seen the Town become quieter and streets safer. He felt the Police Department does a great job. Mr. Hubbard added if Council is looking for a new Chief, it would be good if the Chief came from inside the department because there is a lot of experience already on the force and would help the morale in the department.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mr. Hubbard and told him Council would take note of his comments.

Mr. Edgar Bolen, 207 Ogden Road, Apartment 102, stated the Police Department does an excellent job and are very professional. He stated he knew some of them personally and are all of good character and asked when a new Police Chief is selected, he come from inside the department.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mr. Bolen and said Council agreed the Town has a fine Police Department and will continue to have a fine Police Department.

Deputy Chief Hope Bradner, Altavista EMS, 1111 8th Street, addressed Council advising she has been a lifelong resident of Altavista, a 23 year veteran of the Altavista EMS and it has been her privilege to serve with the Altavista Police Department. She said they have done an excellent job and asked Council to look within the department when replacing Chief Hamilton. She stated she hates to see him go noting she has seen a lot of positive changes since he has been Chief. She stated she has worked closely with the police officers for many years and is very proud to say she is a citizen of Altavista. She asked Council to keep these things in mind because the officers make her feel safe out on the job.

Mayor Mattox thanked Deputy Chief Bradner and for what she does.

Mr. Thomas Kathan, 1828 Sunset Drive, addressed Council stating he has been a citizen of Altavista for many years and a member of the Altavista EMS. He stated the EMS has a very tight-knit relationship with the Police Department. He stated he was sad to see that Chief Hamilton is gone and he didn't understand what has happened but asked Council to please choose from within the Police Department.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mr. Kathan advising Council would keep his comments in mind.

Mr. Mitchell Bernard, 1701 Avondale Drive, addressed Council stating it is nice to hear Chief Hamilton and the Police Department get complimented and told Council there was one thing the citizens of Altavista was owed and it was an explanation of what happened. He stated the only things he has heard about Chief Hamilton and the

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

Police Department were positive things. He stated there has been some kind of misunderstanding or a personal issue or some type of personality conflict; it is obvious from what has been released in the news media and people’s comments. He noted it could not be honestly said that it is a personnel issue because the things brought out in the public by various statements have had to do with policy, procedures, and operations within the department. Mr. Bernard felt this might be due to personal issues; he stated he was not asking someone to accept blame for a mistake. He felt some mistakes have been made and it is too late to rectify with the Chief and told Council, they owe the citizens of Altavista an explanation; otherwise, there will be continued suspicion and lack of trust. He asked Council to face this otherwise it will get worst.

Mr. Robert Duff, 1936 Tabby Lane, directed his comment to Mr. Coggsdale, telling him he went through the process of hiring the last police chief and that he was very thorough with the process and he caught a lot of grief because in some people’s opinion he took too long. He told Mr. Coggsdale he thought he did a wonderful job and said that he could only hope as he went through this process again, that he will find someone that will provide the community with the same level of safety that Chief Hamilton and his staff have provided over the last three years. He wished Mr. Coggsdale good luck and stated he appreciated all Council does.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mr. Duff for his comments.

5. Special Items or Recognitions

6. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting April 9, 2013 and Special Meeting May 1st
- b) Receive monthly review of Invoices
- c) Receive monthly review of Revenue & Expenditures
- d) Receive monthly review of Reserve Balance/Investment Report
- e) Appointment to the Altavista On Track Board

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the items as listed on the consent agenda.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes

7. Public Hearings

- a) FY2014 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan
- b) FY2014 Utility (Water & Sewer) Rate Amendment

Mr. Coggsdale advised the purpose of this public hearing is to receive comment on the FY2014 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan and FY2014 Utility (Water & Sewer) Rate Amendment. He stated in accordance with the calendar adopted by the Council, department requests were presented and the appropriate committees reviewed the departmental budgets. The Draft Budget document was presented to Council and a Work Session was held. The proposed budget reflects some updates based on discussion at these meetings, as well as more accurate revenue and expenditure estimates. He noted following the public hearing, Council will have an opportunity to consider the comments prior to their regular June 11th meeting, at which staff is requesting appropriate actions be taken to adopt the FY2014 Budget and FY2014-

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

2018 Capital Improvement Program. He advised the breakdown as follows:

The General Fund Revenue is estimated at \$3,975,710.

The Enterprise Fund Revenue is estimated at \$2,622,800.

The Highway Fund Maintenance Revenue is estimated at \$570,000.

The Cemetery Fund Revenue is estimated at \$25,000.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$7,193,510

The Proposed Operating Expenditures are \$7,193,510, with \$25,000 being transferred to the Cemetery Fund; \$543,280 being transferred to the General Fund Reserves; and \$338,750 being transferred to the Enterprise Fund Reserves.

There is no proposed increase any of the Town's tax rates.

The PPTRA relief is estimated to be 62%.

There is a 5% increase to Utility Rates (Water and Sewer) included in the FY 2014 Budget.

The FY2014 Capital Improvement Program (FY 2014– 2018) totals \$3,655,600, the FY 2014 Capital Improvement Program included in the FY 2014 Budget totals \$686,400.

Mayor Mattox opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. and asked if anyone would like to comment.

Mr. Mark Moss, Chief of the Altavista EMS, addressed Council in regards to the EMS' request for funding of a new ambulance. Mr. Moss proceeded to read from a letter written by the EMS Executive Director, Jason Bradner, in response to a letter received from the Town.

Altavista EMS

Office of the Executive Director

P.O. Box 1 / 1510 Main Street

Altavista, VA 24517

Jbradner@altavistaems.com

Phone (434) 369-4716 x.101

www.AltavistaEMS.com

Fax (434) 369-4306

J. Waverly Coggsdale III, Town Manager
Town of Altavista
POBox420
Altavista, VA 24517

May 14, 2013

Dear Mr. Coggsdale,

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 7 regarding our agency's request for additional funding for your FY 2014. After discussing your response with Mark Moss who is our Operations Chief, and our agency's Board of Directors, we are very disappointed in your response.

We view your response as a polite "no" without your just stating it point blank. Upon our original receipt of your form asking us to submit our request for your FY 2014 budget, we did so being very specific of our need (project), its cost and what other funding source(s) we expected to utilize to cover this need, particularly in this case which would be \$150,000.00 from Campbell County's CIP Program for public safety agencies. Our request of the Town was simply to pay the expected difference of the cost of this project not already covered by the county funding toward it. The general response of your letter in its second paragraph would lead one to believe that we did not inform you properly as detailed on the Town's funding request form as to all of the pertinent data that it required when in fact we did so.

Altavista EMS provides very efficient and effective Emergency Medical Services to the Town's citizens and visitors on a routine basis and this current fiscal year our expected overall operating budget to provide said services is \$973,000.00. Altavista EMS is the town's only 24/7 primary provider of medical care and one would wonder what type of true appreciation the town's government really has for the effective services we routinely deliver when being only willing to contribute \$1,000.00 toward an agency with nearly a million dollar annual operating budget for this upcoming year.

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

I hope that you will ensure that the Town Council is adequately informed of our request and that it will be reconsidered. Although the largest part of our operating budget is funded from both service fees and various elements of funding from Campbell and Pittsylvania Counties, it surely will not hurt for the Town that we are based in to step up to the plate and show more initiative and appreciation in supplying supplemental funding toward some of our important projects such as this. We are aware that other community organizations which do not offer any forms of public safety services to the town such as those we offer are routinely funded far in excess of the funding we are offered and apparently without the expectations of even justifying the level of funding they receive. Altavista EMS only requests fairness and equitable treatment as compared to others from you and the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Bradner
Executive Director
Altavista EMS
Office: 434-369-4716 ext 101
Fax: 434-369-4306
Cell: 434-841-0012

Mr. Moss added they were very dismayed when they received the letter from the Town in regards to the requested funds. He noted with the county's funding, and the applied for grant, the Altavista EMS is asking for \$11,000 to go towards this vital piece of equipment to providing emergency medical services. Mr. Moss mentioned the facility is located in the Town of Altavista and it will cost the EMS approximately \$5,000 to provide services at the Uncle Billy's Day festivities and only receives \$1,000 annually from the Town. He asked Council to reconsider the budget request.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mr. Moss for the work the EMS does stating they are a great asset to the community. He quoted from the EMS' original budget request packet: "*Altavista EMS is seeking, Campbell County Board of Supervisors is expected*", and stated the response to the request is not a denial, but Council is amiable to further consideration once the process has moved forward and other funding sources have been identified. He stated Council does not want to deny EMS anything that would protect and improve the public's welfare. Mayor Mattox asked if documentation had been provided showing the EMS has moved forward.

Mr. Moss replied affirmatively.

Mayor Mattox advised this information will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Moss stated it was very disheartening to present to Council at the budget meeting with other entities requesting funding; no questions were asked at that time and then receive a letter from the town denying funds.

Mayor Mattox asked Mr. Moss if he had a bid, if the grant had gone through, and if the Campbell County Supervisors had approved their budget.

Mr. Moss stated he does have a quote and funding from the Campbell County Board of Supervisors with their funding to be released pending the outcome of the grant.

Mr. Edwards stated the letter from Mr. Jason Bradner was discussed in the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Council meeting. He stated there is no doubt the Finance Committee is willing to help with the purchase of the ambulance. Mr. Edwards felt there might be a communication issue which stemmed from the request for financials from EMS. He asked Mr. Moss for the opportunity to talk to him after the meeting.

Mayor Mattox asked if anyone else would like to speak in regards to the FY2014 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan and FY2014 Utility (Water & Sewer) Rate Amendment.

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

No one came forward.

Mayor Mattox closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

8. Standing Committee/Commission/Board Reports

a) Council Committees

i. Finance/Human Resources Committee

Avoca Request

Mrs. Dalton advised Mr. Frank Murray, Avoca’s Executive Director, and the Finance Committee have been corresponding in regard to his impending retirement and the possibility of the new director and part-time employee at Avoca being eligible for Town benefits. She stated this request has been through several iterations. Staff reviewed this request and discussed with the Finance Committee and additional information was sought. The Town developed a cost for the employees being Town employees and Avoca developed their proposed costs to keep the employees in-house. Based on the cost and the desire to keep the employees totally supervised by the Avoca Board, Avoca is recommending that the Town's funding to Avoca be raised from \$10,000 to \$16,875 for this purpose. She mentioned Avoca also receives funding from the Town for "Maintenance and Supplies"; the FY 2014 Budget include \$29,400, and the current year’s budget is \$28,200. The Committee discussed this issue at the May 7th meeting and asked staff to gather additional information which the Finance Committee discussed prior to the Council meeting and recommends the funding of \$16,875 be budgeted for Avoca to absorb the cost of a new executive director.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, to budget \$16,875 for Avoca’s new employees.

Mr. George asked if this person would be considered an employee of the town.

Mrs. Dalton clarified this person would not be an employee of the town; it would cost the Town more to put this person on the Town’s payroll. This amount of money reduces the Town’s cost and allows Avoca to have an employee without the number of benefits the Town offers.

Mr. George questioned the Finance Committee’s vote on the matter of two in favor and one not in favor.

Mr. Edwards stated his concerns are the Town needs to lower taxes and if they increase the giving, it will be hard to cut taxes.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	No
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes

Delinquent Water and Sewer Account Write-Offs

Mrs. Dalton advised the Finance Committee reviewed a memorandum from Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director, regarding the Town's policy to write off delinquent utility accounts that are at least five

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

years old or the account holder is deceased. There are eleven accounts that are over five years old and two accounts of deceased individuals totaling \$1,042.57. She stated the Finance Committee recommends that these accounts be written off.

PROPOSED WRITE-OFF

DELINQUENT WATER & SEWER ACCOUNTS

MAY 7, 2013

ACCOUNTS OVER FIVE YEARS OLD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Account Closed</u>	<u>Amount Past Due</u>
Angie Cox	February 1, 2008	\$ 19.76
Jeff Burns	December 21, 2007	\$ 336.61
Richard Berkley	December 14, 2007	\$ 147.85
Stephanie Trent	August 6, 2007	\$ 54.99
Christopher D. Melton	February 8, 2008	\$ 62.83
Jamie Browning	July 19, 2007	\$ 47.07
Patsy Layne	October 22, 2007	\$ 13.27
Paul Holtsclaw	May 1, 2007	\$ 168.83
Minnie Wright	February 4, 2008	\$ 30.18
Randolph Jones	November 5, 2007	\$ 8.21
Robert McDaniel	December 21, 2007	\$ 20.25
Sub-total		\$ 909.85

DECEASED INDIVIDUALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Account Closed</u>	<u>Amount Past Due</u>
George W. Abbott	March 7, 2012	\$ 18.18
Shirley Kershner	August 6, 2012	\$ 114.54
Sub-total		\$ 132.72

GRAND TOTAL	\$1,042.57
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A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Emerson, that the Town of Altavista write off the list of delinquent utility accounts that are over five years old, as well as the two accounts of deceased individuals in the amount of \$1,042.57.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes

Mrs. Dalton added the figure was lower than last year's write-offs and credited the collection process.

Police Department Budget Amendment

Mrs. Dalton advised the Finance Committee reviewed a budget amendment request that was submitted by the Police Chief in regard to an increase to the "Overtime" budget line item. The Police Department has operated the entire Fiscal Year shorthanded due to a variety of reasons; this has created the necessity for some additional overtime. This budget amendment would transfer funds from the "Salaries — Regular" line item, where a surplus is anticipated due to temporary vacant positions. She advised the Finance Committee recommends that a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,800 be approved for the Police Department "Overtime" line item; which will require no "new" money to the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,800 for Police Department "Overtime".

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes

VML-Vehicle Insurance

Mrs. Dalton advised the Finance Committee has reviewed the VML vehicle insurance and additional information regarding the Town's Physical Damage Coverage for equipment and vehicles.

Following the discussion the committee decided not to propose any changes to the Town's current coverage. The committee reviewed the premiums paid versus the claims submitted and found there was very little difference in the two. She mentioned the amount paid to cover older vehicles was very small.

COLA Information Follow-up

Mrs. Dalton advised the budget is based on a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment for the Town employees and there was some thought of Council that staff was calculating one way and some on Council were calculating another way. She noted it is all the same numbers and they have come together on the actual numbers.

Employee Compensation Review

Mrs. Dalton stated during a previous committee meeting, the issue of employees' take home pay decreasing over the past several years was mentioned; the actual take home dollars due to tax increases, benefit changes, etc. She mentioned this was very valuable news to the Finance Committee and they have instructed staff to include detailed analysis of this every year in the early stages of the process.

ACTS "Transit Analysis

Mrs. Dalton advised the Finance Committee discussed analyzing the Transit System in a way that should something catastrophic happen such as the state and federal fundings are withheld or a more efficient way of moving folks around town is discovered they would be receptive to the possibilities.

Mayor Mattox noted the adoption of the FY2014 Budget and FY2014-2018 Capital Improvement Program will be considered at the June 11, 2013 Town Council meeting.

- ii. Police/Legislative Committee
- iii. Public Works/Utility Committee

AOT Bench Location Request

Mr. Ferguson advised the Public Works/Utility Committee reviewed the request of Altavista on Track for location of a decorative bench in Founder's Square and recommends approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mrs. Dalton, to allow for the placement of a decorative bench in Founder's Square.

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

Mrs. Dalton felt this was a charming idea and would like to see more of this type of art in the town.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes

WWTP Emergency Overflow Pond—PCB Issue

Mr. Ferguson advised the Public Works/Utility Committee reviewed the revised Ecolotree proposal and had staff review several items. Following feedback from staff in regard to several outstanding items, a Special Meeting of Town Council was called for consideration of the proposal. Council approved the revised Ecolotree proposal and staff worked to implement the next phase.

Utility Agreements

Mr. Ferguson advised the Public Works/Utility Committee continued discussion on the feasibility of entering into a Utility Agreement with Campbell County. After discussion, the Committee indicated that it would review the document and place back on their agenda for next month.

5th Street and Charlotte Avenue Drainage Project

Mr. Ferguson advised the Public Works Director John Tomlin updated the Committee on the on-going discussion with VDOT in regard to the performance of the review of data that would determine whether the existing infrastructure along Main Street would accommodate the storm water associated with this project. VDOT has indicated that it would be the end of the year before they could get to the review and suggested that the Town hire an engineer to perform this review. After discussion, Committee member Higginbotham asked if he could contact VDOT in regard to this matter and the committee members agreed.

Library Custodial Issues

Mr. Ferguson advised staff updated the Committee on issues related to the custodial services at the library that will prompt a change in the service provider. The Committee indicated that staff will continue to assess how to handle custodial services at the library and seek ways to improve the agreement.

Tree Removal Request

Mr. Ferguson stated staff informed the Committee that they have received a request from Mr. Bobby Blanks regarding the large tree between the sidewalk and the curb in close proximity to his business. Mr. Blanks feels the tree should be removed. The Committee decided to table this request, review the site and re-evaluate the request next month.

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

9. New Business

a) Consideration of Masonic Lodge's Proposal for Amory Use

Mr. Coggsdale advised he met with representatives (Mr. Stan Goldsmith and Mr. Aubrey Rosser) of Masonic Lodge Campbell 316 A.F. & A.M. to learn about the organization's interest in assuming ownership of the National Guard Armory situated on Avondale Drive. He presented Council with the Masonic Lodge's "Proposal for Acquiring the National Guard Armory in Altavista" and "Proposed Time Line for Refurbishing Armory". He suggested Council consider discussing their interest in entertaining this proposal; solicit other proposals or some other potential option for the property.

Mayor Mattox recommended the Finance Committee review the proposals and suggested with Council's approval, the Town Manager seek additional proposals.

Mr. Edwards suggested the Town Manager be allowed to advertise the RFP.

b) Consideration of Colonel Club Request for Signs

Mr. Coggsdale advised recently Councilman George received an email from a citizen in regard to the process for the Colonel Club to seek permission to install several signs at locations in Town that would recognize Altavista High School and the teams that have won State Championships through the years. Formerly, there were three signs erected in Town when both the Girl's and Boy's basketball teams won State Championships in 2002. Two of these signs have been removed due to Town entrance improvement projects (Bedford Avenue and Main Street). Mr. Coggsdale stated he has had conversations with several representatives of the Colonel Club and a design concept was forwarded by incoming president Lee Stinnette. He noted Mr. Stinnette has indicated that the group is looking at placement of the sign at three locations; Bedford Avenue, Main Street and at the school. The group is seeking permission to place the signs in town; if the signs are going to be in the right of way VDOT will need to be involved on the Bedford Avenue and Main Street sites.

Mr. Lee Stinnette, 340 Windsong Drive, Lynch Station, addressed Council stating the Colonel Club is proposing new signs and is asking for permission from the Town to move forward.

Mayor Mattox referred the request to the Public Works/Utility Committee.

c) Consideration of AOT's Request for Funding for "No Interest Loan Program"

Mr. Coggsdale advised of an email from Mr. Herbert Miller, President of the AOT Board of Directors, stating the organization is expanding the focus of their economic restructuring activities. Several years ago as part of the Community Development Block Grant, a facade improvement program was implemented that allowed business/property owners to make improvements to their buildings utilizing "no interest loans". At that time, the Town Council opted to also provide monies for business improvements outside the defined district that could utilize the CDBG funds. At this time the "No Interest Loan" program continues and AOT is requesting that funding in the amount of \$50,000.47 be allocated to increase the existing balance from \$49,999.53 to \$100,000. He noted funding is not included in the FY 2014 Budget for this program.

Mayor Mattox referred this matter to the Finance Committee for evaluation.

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

d) Consideration of “The Fair Tax Plan”

Mayor Mattox advised Mr. Ed Scruggs submitted to the Town Manager a copy of information relative to the "Fair Tax Plan" and asked that it be forwarded to Council and placed on their agenda.

Mr. Scruggs thanked Council for considering the information relating to the “Fair Tax Plan.”

10. Manager’s Report

a) Reports

- i. Departmental
- ii. Others

b) Other Items as Necessary

c) Informational Items

Mr. Coggsdale advised the Town has been awarded the 2012 Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award by the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

Mr. Witt addressed Council with an update on the downtown district project. Mr. Witt advised due to the excessive rains and the location of a storm water drain that is approximately 100 years old, the completion of the Pittsylvania Avenue project will be delayed. VDOT has approved with their funds the replacement of this storm water line which will add six days to the project.

Mr. Coggsdale expressed sympathy for the family of Mr. Mike Dameron, Campbell County Utilities Services Authority.

11. Matters from Town Council

Mr. Emerson brought forth for discussion the schools in the county and the proposal of consolidating from four schools to two schools which would move the Altavista Combined School out of the town limits. He asked Council members to come up with something to show their stance on this matter realizing the businesses would suffer without the school.

Mayor Mattox asked if he was looking for a resolution showing the importance of the local school system in Altavista.

Mr. Edwards stated he is sensitive to the businesses and that the school is a large part of the community, but so are the children. He stated he would not want to take the position either way without knowing what the children will suffer. His understanding is by consolidating the schools, the children will be offered more.

Mrs. Dalton suggested the resolution be broader than keeping the school in the town, she stated the current discussion is for two schools in the county. She felt there were more possibilities to consider. She stated she supports a community wrapping their arms around a school and it can be a mutual benefit for the community and the school. She said maybe the resolution could be worded in such a way to support the notion that Altavista has strongly supported its school and would like for the school to be in the Town or close proximity and possibility three schools instead of two. Mrs. Dalton felt it was not always the highest financial efficiency that is best for the young person or the community. She agreed with Mr. Edwards stating the education the young people get in the Campbell County schools is paramount but if you take away the community trappings there is a net loss as well and felt there should be some way to have

Regular Council Meeting—May 14, 2013

both. Mrs. Dalton stated she supports some type of communication with the school board.

Mr. Edwards suggested having Dr. Robert Johnson, Superintendent of Campbell County Schools and the Altavista District representative, Mr. Gary Mattox, attend a future Council meeting.

Mrs. Dalton asked Mr. Emerson if this seemed like a reasonable interim step before the resolution.

Mr. Emerson felt this would be fine and stated he understands the financial burden but it will be a sad day when traveling in the area of the school and not seeing any students at 2:40 p.m.

Mrs. Dalton agreed stating the spirit of the community is wrapped around the schools.

Mayor Mattox stated he was in favor of a resolution stating the importance of a local school.

Mr. Edwards asked if meeting with the representatives would be better than a resolution.

Mayor Mattox stated he was more interested in a resolution stating how much the Town appreciates having the school in Altavista. He is not interested in a resolution telling Dr. Johnson, where he can or cannot put the school. He is more interested in saying how important the school is to the community.

Mrs. Dalton also suggested telling how important the community is to the school as well.

Mr. Ed Scruggs suggested Council solicit input from the community.

Mayor Mattox stated he would like a resolution stating the Town of Altavista appreciates the school and what it means to have a school in Altavista.

Mrs. Dalton suggested a draft resolution be presented to Council and go from there.

Mayor Mattox mentioned a celebration of the Boy's Basketball State Championship is scheduled for May 19th at the Altavista Combined School.

Mayor Mattox advised he would relieve himself of any further consideration of the Masonic Lodge/Armory due to a financial interest.

12. Closed Session

Mayor Mattox asked if there was anything else to bring before Council.

No one came forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Michael E. Mattox, Mayor

J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Clerk